

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 068110
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DRAFTED BY SSM/P:D Q LAYNE:MA/J T MC ANDREW:RS
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SSM:L G PENDLETON, JR.

-----281840Z 012076 /53-R

P 281637Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION SINAI PRIORITY

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FOR THORNE FROM KONTOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: POLICY ON FUEL PURCHASES

REF: A. SINAI 680, B. STATE 63566, C. SINAI 746

1. I HAVE REVIEWED ALL THE CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS TOPIC AND HAVE DISCUSSED IT AT LENGTH WITH MEMBERS OF THE STAFF. WE ALL AGREE THAT THERE IS REASON FOR CONCERN AND I CAN NOW BETTER APPRECIATE THE PROBLEM YOU FACE IN DEALING WITH MOBIL. HOWEVER, I DO NOT FIND SUFFICIENT CAUSE TO JUSTIFY MODIFYING OUR EXISTING POLICY TO PERMIT PROCUREMENT FROM PAZ, EXCEPT AT THE FOUR-DAY LEVEL PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED, AT THIS TIME.

2. OUR PRIMARY CONCERN IS EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THE EWS AND LIFE SUPPORT FACILITIES. TWO ADDITIONAL FACTORS PLAY A PART IN THE DETERMINATION OF OUR POLICY: OUR CONTINUING
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EFFORT TO PROMOTE SYMMETRY, AND MAINTAINING REASONABLE CONTRACT COSTS. WE FEEL THIS CAN BE DONE WITHIN THE POLICY STATED IN REF B.

3. A REVIEW OF THE SPECIFICATIONS REVEALS THAT SFM HAS A 16,000 GALLON STORAGE CAPACITY FOR DIESEL FUEL. USAGE

DATA OVER THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS, AS NOTED IN SINAI 637, HAS BEEN APPROXIMATELY 650 GALLONS/DAY WHICH MEANS THERE IS 24 DAYS SUPPLY WHEN THE TANKS ARE TOPPED OFF. AS A POLICY MATTER WE HAVE STATED THAT SFM SHOULD REORDER FROM MOBIL ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE DESIGNED TO ENSURE A MINIMUM RESERVE OF SEVEN DAYS. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS NOTHING TO PRECLUDE ESTABLISHING A SCHEDULED DELIVERY EVERY 14 DAYS, OR EVEN MORE FREQUENTLY, SO AS TO MAINTAIN A 10-DAY RESERVE. THIS SHOULD HELP AVERT THE RECURRENCE OF ANY CLIFF-HANGERS SUCH AS THOSE NOTED IN RECENT CABLES.

4. SHOULD MOBIL NOT RESPOND WITH A FUEL DELIVERY PRIOR TO THE RESERVE DROPPING TO THE FIVE-DAY MARK, THE CONTRACTOR IS AUTHORIZED TO PLACE AN INTERIM ORDER WITH PAZ SO THAT YOUR RESERVE WILL NOT FALL BELOW A MINIMUM LEVEL OF FOUR DAYS. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PAZ CAN RESPOND RAPIDLY WHEN CALLED UPON, AS IT HAS IN THE PAST.

5. YOU HAVE INDICATED IN SINAI 637 THAT THERE HAVE BEEN EXTENDED DELAYS CREATED BY IDF MANEUVERS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE ONLY DELAYS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED WERE IN

THE LATTER PART OF JANUARY AND THESE WERE NEVER LONGER THAN ONE DAY. IF THIS SHOULD BECOME A PROBLEM IN THE FUTURE, WE CAN READDRESS THE FOUR-DAY RESERVE POLICY AT THAT TIME.

CHRISTOPHER

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